

# The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1909.

## HELPING FARMERS AND FARMERS' WIVES.

Dr. Barringer's purpose to introduce at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute courses in domestic science for farmers' wives and daughters is deserving of the heartiest commendation and support. The daily drudgery to which many of these good women are committed is severe, and there is no doubt that instruction in the arts of the home could lighten it. Of course, the great question is as to whether those who would most benefit by such courses as Dr. Barringer proposes could be induced to take them. The first step in any education is to bring home the need for education. But doubtless this can be gradually accomplished, as it has been accomplished with the farmers themselves. The proposal here is simply to give the women a share in the scientific training which the men are getting, and so make their lives a little easier and pleasanter and more fruitful. Whatever does this and keeps the women contented on the farms will genuinely help the State of Virginia.

As to the work which education has done and is doing for Virginia farmers, we find the State editors taking most optimistic views. "Virginia has made phenomenal strides in the advancement of agricultural methods in the past five years," says the Roanoke Times. "The lands of the State, under cultivation, have certainly increased in value as much as 50 per cent." And the Clifton Forge Review points to farm houses equipped with baths, furnace heat and acetylene gas; to lads sent off to the agricultural college who come home to revolutionize methods and turn out such crops as the "old man" never dreamed of; to "worn-out lands" magically made over and worked to a marvelous productivity; of worthless swamps converted into fertile corn land. "Farming," sums up the Review, "instead of being a necessary evil, is becoming a gentleman's vocation, and is being sought more and more as a means of independent, prosperous livelihood."

If this is at all realistic as applied to the whole State just now, rather than to the most prosperous and progressive sections of it, it will not long remain so. The once despised "book-farming" is making mighty inroads upon old-time prejudice and ignorance, and the coming years will see this increasingly the case. With good roads, good schools and the abundant prosperity which skilled farming can easily bring from her fertile soil, Virginia is certain one day to come fully into her own as the pleasantest place to live in America.

## MR. WOOD FOR BUREAU.

The Times-Dispatch learns with much pleasure that President J. B. Wood, of the Board of Aldermen, is heartily in favor of the Chimborazo site for the United States weather station. His negative vote at Tuesday night's meeting was purely tactical, so cast in order to qualify him to move for a reconsideration. It was changed on the record to an affirmative when the motion to reconsider was offered by another Alderman, Mr. Gunst.

The Times-Dispatch sincerely regrets that it inadvertently lined Mr. Wood up with the Aldermen who are obstructing the interests of progressive Richmond, when as a matter of fact he belongs in better company. It has pleasure in making this editorial correction, which is done to amend an unintentional injustice and without suggestion or complaint from Mr. Wood. Only six Aldermen stand against the Weather Bureau. Fifteen are for it. A change of one Alderman only would give the necessary three-fourths vote, and might yet, with the concurrence of the Council, secure this building for Richmond.

## "LEARN" FOR "TEACH" AND OTHERS.

"Learn" is a word that has given lots of trouble in its day. A good many worthy people will insist on using it as an active transitive; they seem to differentiate it from "teach" as having a fuller and more conclusive meaning; it fulfills, perhaps, what the other only attempts. At any rate, that they are understood to be similar verbs with differing connotation is made plain when we hear a man say of some stupid fellow as we occasionally do: "You can't learn him nothing, and you can't teach him nothing." But there was a day when this sentence, double negative and all, would have passed muster in any society.

These are matters which Professor Thomas L. Lounsbury discusses interestingly in Harper's Magazine. Shakespeare, he tells us, used "learn" for "teach" at least a dozen times. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu used the same form frequently. In fact, the usage was once in impeccable standing. Exactly the same may be

said of other words now chiefly current among those whose education expired at the secondary school, or before. "I have went," a vigorous form dear to the heart of the illiterate, comes of a fine old lineage. The verb "go" simply plundered the past participle of its fellow verb "wend" and let its own participle lapse. "Ours" and "yours" long contested for place with "ours" and "yours." Cleopatra says to the dead Antony: "I swore to be all freely yours." The poet Browne wrote of "the store of thick clouds interposed" which "makes her less our." But these forms lacked distinctiveness. There was felt a need to impart special character to possessive pronouns parted from their nouns. In the long run "ours" found more favor with the masters than "ourn," but it might just as well have been the other way.

Many an elegance of the sixteenth century is the barbarism of to-day, and many a barbarism of to-day will be the elegance of our great-grandchildren. This is the way that language moves, an irresponsible way, but we think a pleasant. Not all our modern solecisms, though, enjoyed a distinguished origin. For "done" and "seen" used as preterites, for instance, Professor Lounsbury, generous as his disposition is, can find no ancestral warrant. He who thunders "I seen him when he done it" can cite neither Shakespeare nor Chaucer as sponsor. If, indeed, he had the pleasure of knowing either of these gentlemen.

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT FOR ATLANTA.

It is interesting to Richmond to note that Atlanta is now moving under exactly the same restiveness with the councilmanic system of government which has for some time been manifest in this city. A Charter Revision Committee in the Georgia capital has been investigating the subject of city government, and a special subcommittee designated to consider the commission plan has just made its report. It unanimously declares in favor of the commission. The plan recommended provides for a Mayor and six commissioners, elected by the city at large. This board of seven is to appoint and remove all other officers and employees of the city at pleasure, the controller only being elected for a fixed term of years. A referendum on the granting of franchises and the issuance of bonds is provided. The subcommittee also recommends to the consideration of the whole committee provision for the initiative, general referendum and recall for civil service appointments. These provisions together would give Atlanta a compact and efficient government. Nothing is said about the salaries of the commissioners or the length of their terms.

The expectation is that this report will be adopted by the full committee, and the issue will then be squarely met. Atlanta is not hampered by restrictions in the State Constitution as Virginia cities are. Yet even so she may not find the change to the more desirable form of government easily accomplished. It is necessary that the Council shall vote for the commission, thus legislating itself out of office, or that it shall refer the matter to a popular vote; and thereafter the revision of the charter must be carried to the Legislature, where the popular will has been nullified before now. But Richmond must do all these things, and in addition must wait the amendment of the Constitution. Atlanta will doubtless make the harbor sooner, though this city will hardly be far behind.

## HOW TO KEEP A HUSBAND.

Stay beautiful—and don't let him know how you do it. This is the sound advice on the above momentous topic that Mme. Hatton gave to 500 Chicago ladies in the Fine Arts Building the other day. That terse summary comprises all the wisdom of the ages. The use of the word "stay" is no mere accident. It assumes, with perfect correctness, that all women are beautiful to begin with. Staying or not staying, that is the whole question.

A Georgia solon once tried to legislate against all those manufactured aids to pulchritude which the lovely sex buys at the druggists and elsewhere, and a whole people laughed him to scorn. These things are inextricably rooted in the history of the race. The cave woman began it when she painted herself blue, and seeing her mirrored person in the brook, cried, "I am beautiful!" In which her lover, clubbing her home to the bridal feast, heartily concurred. Or what we may crudely call artificial allurement, Mme. Hatton is no enemy. Powders, lotions, creams, perfumes, cosmetics, massage compounds, cunning reducers and increasers, the need of all these things she fully admits. But her wise point is that while the effect of them is distinctly gorgeous, they are in themselves intrinsically and inherently rather unlovely. Hence the use of them, while wholly praiseworthy, should be obtained on Man no whit more after they have married him than before. Man knows far too much already through his pernicious habit of reading the advertisements in the back of the magazines.

We believe it was Mr. Gelett Burgess who recently remarked that married men make poor husbands. Even so hopeless a cynic as Mr. Burgess would hardly venture to paraphrase this epigram to fit the other sex. But if that sex has a fault, husbands may possibly agree, as Mme. Hatton suggests, that it is its tendency to make cold cream a little too conspicuous when married. Doubtless little white jars of pink paste have cooled many a love, excellent things as they are when privately employed. More than one rift within the lute has come at the push of some dermatological adviser, too carelessly applied. Many a divorce has grown out of crimping

## Borrowed Jingles.

The amazing ball team of Richmond is now boasting the "Barnum's" jingle, of which it is president, for the season of 1909, and sincerely regrets that circumstances over which it has no control prevent it from extending invitations to the low-grade aggregations at Washington and Houston.

## A TARIFF MONOLOGUE.

(By an Insider.)

The tariff should be lessened (wails)—That's what each and every one thinks, and by all means it should be done (Aides). You know, I'm just in fun. (The politician's artful wiles). Should be disclosed, good people (smiles)—Reduce the tariff, that's my view (Turns pale—What if those fellows do!)

The schedule now has many a flaw That should be fixed (haw-haw-haw-haw); The cost of living is too high—My country (winks), for you I sigh! I hope they get the pruning hook, And at each item closely look; Then chop for this great nation's good (Gasp twice)—Great Scott, what if they should!

I hope that those good men and true (Lift eyebrows) who have this to do, That will not let the tariff go, That we pay dear for what we get, And then, down in my heart, I hope, (He shudders) that you'll never be! (He shudders) (This MUST never be!)

—Charles L. Barnes, in New York World.

## NERELY JOKING.

The Reason. "Why are you crying, sonny?" "Because she is crying, sonny, hammer an I laughed."—Harper's Weekly.

Suspicious. "She says there is only a platonic friendship." "Then why has she begun to take cooking lessons?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Powerful. "What power is your automobile?" "Forty-horse and twice as much will power."—Philadelphia Record.

Speedy. "Why do you call your wife Marathon?" "Because she can run up hills faster than anybody I ever knew?"—Detroit Free Press.

Fame. "Papa?" "Yes, daughter." "Who was Cinderella?" "Why, that first woman to get a No. 4 foot into a No. 2 shoe, I believe."—Yonkers Statesman.

The Morning Meal. A traveler stopped at a hotel in Greenland, where the nights are six months long, and he registered asked a question of the waiter.

"What time do you have breakfast?" "From half-past March to a quarter to May."—Harper's Weekly.

## SHOTS FROM THE GALLERY.

TALK of an energetic man like Mr. Roosevelt being liable to contract something called "the sleeping sickness" sounds absurd to Washington Star.

Great Britain's trade is falling off; but what can you expect of a people who won't treason in their conflicts, and grand rather didn't?—New York World.

The Indian has been so rapidly disappearing that when he is driven off the 1-cent coins that will be about the last of him. Philadelphia Press.

If it costs \$50 a week to board an automobile, \$25 a month to board a horse and 3 cents to board a steer, car, what's the answer?—Milwaukee Journal.

At least Mr. Roosevelt has succeeded by some means in getting out of politics a bur under the saddle of civil righteousness.—Chicago News.

Now it has been discovered that Hendrik Hudson's real name was Henry. Why not popularize it still further by calling him Hank?—Denver Republican.

## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Heidelberg University has received \$22,500 to found a radio institute.

The snail's teeth are on its tongue, and there are thousands of them.

A Hollander pays as taxes about 12 per cent, but the private of operation is charged with the collection annually of \$220,000,000 and called upon to decide almost daily questions involving the life or death of some business or industry.

The fifty anniversary of the famous hymn, "There's a Home for Little Children," was celebrated recently at New York. The author, Mr. Albert Midlane (who is eighty-four), was invited to the public square. Two thousand Sunday school children of all denominations sang the hymn.

Mrs. Nancy C. Bush, postmaster at Charlotte, Vt., has just celebrated her seventy-eight birthday. She has been in the postal service for thirty-eight years, beginning as a telegraph operator and assistant postmaster. In response to a postal establishment at Charlotte, Vt., President Grant appointed her postmaster in 1875.

OVERHEAD WIRES.

Whenver Sleet Storms Rage.

The United States National Capital from the rest of the world at a time when the eyes of the whole country were turned upon it was charged with the private operation of utilities. In an age when a vessel far out at sea can keep in touch with ships and shore Washington's telegraph communications were totally cut off.

This was the result of maintaining the same ancient system of wires that was in use when telegraphy was a novelty. The wires were strung in a thick network on wooden poles. The weight of ice upon these frail posts, together with the gale that swayed the masts, snapped them off by the roots.

But the steel and copper threads parted in thousands of places. Nor was the collapse of telegraph and telephone facilities the only casualty of the winter. The railroad tracks and marooned thousands of visitors to the inauguration.

The United States is behind England in this respect just as it is behind European countries in the matter of railway signaling. Breakdowns of telegraph and telephone wires are a common occurrence in winter.

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## The Courts of Europe.

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

ALTHOUGH the government of the United States was, like those of Germany and of Turkey, represented by an ambassador, the funeral of the old Marquis Emmanuel de Noailles at Paris the other day, yet the death diploma was not such a simple matter as it might seem. It was the country as his grand-uncle, the Vicomte de Noailles, companion in arms of Washington, for, having been appointed minister here of the French republic by President Thiers, he was at first received with open arms, and then, when the republic was overthrown, he was received with open arms, and then, when the republic was overthrown, he was received with open arms.

It is an evident, and to the citizen who cares anything for our children it is a painful fact, that our country schools need more supervision. They need vast improvement and they need vast improvement. Our country schools are to-day the weakest link in our educational system, and it is so because these schools are left without a guiding hand to run into the abyss of disorder and inefficiency. They are left to the sheer strength and personality of the teacher above these. If the teacher is able to overcome the difficulties of her worth soon brings her to a better place, and the country school must try a new hand the next year and perhaps with poorer luck. It is for our country schools that we need the constant supervision of an able superintendent. Our town schools with their small populations and their small budgets can do so, but our country schools without much outside supervision.

But so long as our country schools are not under the supervision of an able superintendent, the country children will suffer and their education will be more or less deficient.—Southwest Times.

Boasters. The Republicans are great boasters. They have a constant stream of boasts, and they are not only produced the revenues of government, but protected American industries and made prosperity for all. The Dingley tariff has been in operation for ten years. One of the worst panics the country ever had came on in 1907 when the Dingley tariff was in operation. It was a hard time, but the tariff has failed to produce sufficient revenues to defray the expenses of government. It is proposed to resort to extreme measures of taxation, never before employed, save in one case, and that was the tariff on sugar, when work is scarce and the cost of living abnormally high, additional tax burdens are to be put upon the people.

Opposes Judge Mann. In justice to Judge Mann and his friends, the Leader publishes in another column to-day a list of the names of the judges of the Federal Circuit of New York county, the home county of the former jurist, who is now running for the Democratic nomination for Governor, replying to the criticism of a "certain Richmond newspaper" in its attack on the war record of the judge.

During the War of 1870 the marquis de Noailles was a public character, yet the salons of her house in Paris were rather dull. Through her connections with the famous onyx staircase, which was one of the features of the chateau, she was known to be a woman of great refinement and taste.

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